

Meeting Minutes
Virginia Board of Education
Board of Education Standards of Quality (SOQ) Committee
and the
Committee on the Lowest Performing School Divisions
Tuesday, June 22, 2004

- Mr. Mark Emblidge, chairman of the committee on the lowest performing school divisions, opened the meeting with a welcome and overview of the agenda. Other Board of Education members present included: Mr. David Johnson, Mrs. Isis Castro, Mr. Scott Goodman, Mrs. Susan Genovese, Mr. Thomas Jackson, and Dr. Ella Ward. Dr. Gary Jones, chairman of the SOQ committee and Mr. Thomas Johnson were unable to attend.
- Mr. Charles Finley, assistant superintendent for educational accountability, provided the committee with a report on local school divisions' compliance with the SOQ for 2003-2004. Pursuant to Administrative Supts. Memo No. 12, March 12, 2004 division superintendents were instructed to review the SOQ requirements and certify whether their respective divisions are in compliance with the SOQ provisions. This is done annually. As of the time of the meeting all school divisions had submitted their certifications.
 - Forty-three divisions reported full compliance.
 - Sixty divisions reported full compliance but were put into an error category. The error was based on their failure to have school(s) within the respective divisions fully accredited. Full accreditation of all schools is required for division compliance with the SOQ.
 - Thirty-one divisions noted exceptions to compliance with the SOQ. The most noted areas of noncompliance were school(s) within the respective divisions were not fully accredited and/or the divisions did not have current six year plans.

The information Mr. Finley, reported will be part of the information the board reports to the General Assembly.

- Dr. Cheri Magill, director of accreditation, updated committee members on the two pilot division-level academic reviews conducted by Department of Education (DOE) teams. The initial and onsite visits with Petersburg City public schools and Lee County public schools have taken place. Lee County's school board has accepted and signed off on DOE's findings, and will be addressing the division's corrective action plan at the local board's meeting in July. DOE staff will be returning to Lee County at the end of July to monitor implementation of the corrective action plan. Some areas of noncompliance identified in the Lee County review included curriculum alignment, staff development, and updating the six-year plan. DOE staff will also return to Petersburg City public schools in late July to review new

information the school division will provide for the review team. Petersburg City has put a number of new initiatives in place to bring the division into compliance. The division is developing a corrective action plan to submit to the local school board. Dr. Magill indicated that Richmond City public schools has requested DOE to review the Great City Schools Report, and use that as a proxy for the division level review.

- Ms. Anne Wescott, assistant superintendent for policy and communications, presented a letter prepared by Dr. Jones for consideration of issues to be discussed at the board's upcoming forum in July. The committee will invite representatives from educational organizations to make recommendations regarding amendments to the SOQ to the committee during the July forum.
- The next meeting is planned for the afternoon of July 20, 2004, the day before the full Board of Education meeting.